

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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2011 DEC -7 P 3:00

In the Matter of:

: Docket No: A2012-44

DEER GROVE, ILLINOIS 61243
Post Office State Zip Code

:

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Galen R Hooper, Petitioner(s)

:

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the DEER GROVE post office. The Final Determination was posted OCTOBER 17, 2011.

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

A. I believe that the study was very flawed and was a decision made up before we ever had the community meeting. They never even took into consideration of the people that the Deer Grove Post Office serves. The closing of the Deer Grove Post Office will have a terrible effect on the local community. We are a small community that is thickly populated by people of the Amish faith. The USPS already discriminates against them with their shipping of products from their businesses. The USPS has the Priority Regional Rate Boxes that are only good if you use click-n-ship. Well, the Amish people, **BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEF DO NOT USE AND WILL NOT ALLOW THEIR PEOPLE TO USE THE WORLD WIDE WEB** so they cannot get the discounted rate and have to use the Priority Flat Rate Boxes. The Amish are one of the biggest customers of the Deer Grove Post Office and it will be much more costly for them to not have Deer Grove office open. Some of them have same day shipping on the orders that they receive and if they have to go to rural delivery they will possibly get their orders later and will not be able to fill them in time which will cause them to lose business.

B. We were not informed about closing the Deer Grove Post Office until the night of the community meeting. The only thing we were told was that they were talking about a DUO program. Then at the community meeting the MPOO did not even run the meeting. She had a Postmaster, Lisa Carver from another Post Office, in charge of the meeting. One of the reasons giving for the closing was that it had no dedicated postmaster. Lisa

said the postmaster retired on November 30, 2009 and a hiring freeze prevented the USPS from appointing a replacement. This was not the truth as the hiring freeze did not go into effect until July 28, 2010. We have a very dedicated OIC at the Post Office who has 25 years experience as a PMR that should have been made Postmaster when the other one retired. The OIC cares very much about the Post Office and is very helpful in shipping products the right way. Without the office open we will not have this kind of service from a rural carrier. I guess the name of the place will have to change from United States Postal Service to something else because they will be no service associated with the Postal department and especially in Deer Grove.

- C. I do believe that the savings that they came up with are on the very high side. It will extend the rural carriers day and give them more hours plus the extra mileage that has to be paid. The rent on the building is very minimal compared to the other Post Office that they want us to go to. I for one will never use the place they want to consolidate us with.
- D. I strongly believe by the number of people using the Deer Grove Post Office for the Fiscal Year 2011 that the revenue must have grown but no one would tell us at the meeting if this is true. Why would they want to close a Post Office that is having a growth in revenue? I am sure that you can find out about the growth in revenue. This Post Office is located on State Highway 40 which has a lot of traffic and the truck drivers stop a lot to mail stuff because they can pull off highway to park and do not have to drive through a town to get to Post Office. All the customers are not local people.
- E. Lisa Carver made a statement "No extra charge for rural delivery\pickup" which is true IF mail is under 13 oz's. If it weighs 13 oz's or more it has to be brought to the Post Office window because it requires an Aviation Security Stamp therefore the rural carrier **cannot pick it up**. Therefore the Amish customers must bring in their parcels over 13 oz's because they **DO NOT USE THE WORLD WIDE WEB due to religious beliefs**, preventing them from using Click-N-Ship.
- F. By law the Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining but here they are closing small rural Post Offices while at the same time spends millions of dollars on prime time television commercials. Do away with the commercials and save several small Post Offices.

November 30, 2011